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Guide to the

Carol Teitel papers

1950s-1985

*T-Mss 1996-044

Compiled by Susan Malsbury, April 2013

Summary

Creator: Teitel, Carol, 1923-1986

Title: Carol Teitel papers, 1950s-1985

Size: 8.4 linear feet (20 boxes)

Source: Donated by Nathan Teitel, 2012.

Abstract: Carol Teitel (1923-1986) was an American radio, stage, and television actress. Teitel appeared on CBS Radio Mystery Theater; on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and at regional theaters; and in various television dramas. The papers contain material that reflects Teitel's career on stage and in television dramas and consist of correspondence, news clippings, photographs, programs, and scripts.

Access: For permission to publish, contact the Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: Carol Teitel papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, New York Public Library.

Custodial history: Collection was maintained by Nathan Teitel prior to donation.

Processing note: Material was refoldered as necessary and reboxed.

Creator history

Carol Teitel (1923-1986) was an American radio, stage, and television actress. Teitel appeared on CBS Radio Mystery Theater; on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and at regional theaters; and in various television dramas. Teitel was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Henry and Blanche (Reisman) Kahn. Interested in theater from a young age, Teitel won a scholarship to study with Lee Strasberg at the American Theatre Wing. She made her acting debut in 1941 as Little Mary in *Stage Door*.

After acting in various regional productions, Teitel made her Broadway debut in 1958 as Jean Rice's understudy in *The Entertainer*, which starred Laurence Olivier. Other Broadway roles included *A Flea in Her Ear* (1969), in which she played the lead, *Richard Burton's Hamlet* (1964), *Marat/Sade* (1967), *Crown Matrimonial* (1973), *All Over Town* (1974), and *The Marriage of Figaro* (1985). Off-Broadway appearances included *A Country Scandal*, *Juana La Loca*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, and *Under Milk Wood*, among many others. Teitel was a founding member of San Francisco's American Conservatory Theater, which formed in 1965, and performed with the theater annually at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Her regional theater work took her across the United States and Canada.

Teitel appeared in television movies such as *Woman of Valor* (1977), *Francis of Assisi* (1977), *My Old Man* (1979) and *Royal Match* (1985), and television dramas *The Edge of Night* (1971 to 1972) and *Guiding Light* (1973 to 1974).

In 1979, she toured with her one-woman show, *Faces of Love*, which culminated in a successful run at the Roundabout Theater, and in 1984 she played Jacqueline in the San Francisco production of *La Cage aux Folles*. Her husband was playwright Nathan Teitel and she appeared in many of his plays including *Duet*, *Figures in the Sand*, and *The Keymaker*.

Teitel won two Obie awards, for her work in *Under Milkwood* and *The Country Scandal*, and was nominated for an Emmy for *Woman of Valor*. She died in 1986 at the age of 62 following complications from a car accident.

Scope and content note

The papers contain material that reflects Teitel's career on stage and in television dramas and consists of correspondence, news clippings, photographs, programs, and scripts. The correspondence is primarily incoming letters from notable actors and directors including William Ball, Greer Garson, Arthur Laurents, Laurence Olivier, and Joan Plowright, among others. The letters consist of notes thanking Teitel for a letter or gift; comments on one of her performances; or requests for her to audition for a part. All of the letters are warm in tone and demonstrate the friendships Teitel developed with many of her colleagues. The correspondence also consists of photocopies of fan letters to CBS regarding *Faces of Love*, and from the Jewish Theological Seminary regarding *A Woman of Valor*. The photographs are unsorted and consist of prints and contact sheets of theater performances and television shows, as well as headshots and other publicity photographs. There is a small amount of candid snapshots of a dinner party and of the cast and crew of the San Francisco production of *La Cage aux Folles*. Both the photographs and programs represent the breadth of Teitel's decades-long career, from Broadway shows to regional theaters. The scripts are for stage plays and television dramas and are generally heavily annotated. The general folder contains biographical material, a ticket and set requirements for *Faces of Love*, a sketch of Teitel, and a certificate for her 1977 Academy Award nomination.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by format.

Key terms

Subjects

Off-Broadway theater
Women in the theater -- United States

Names

Teitel, Carol, 1923-1986

Places

Broadway (New York, N.Y.)

Titles

Acting American Theatre

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- b.10 f.4 *Galileo*, undated
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- b.14 f.1 *Long Live Life*, 1968
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Scripts (cont.)

- b.16 f.2 *The Old Ones*, undated
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- b.17 f.1 *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, undated
- b.17 f.2 *Saturday Sunday Monday*, undated
- b.17 f.3 *The Sea Gull*, undated
- b.17 f.4 *Seven Days of Mourning*, undated
- b.17 f.5 *Siamese Connections*, 1970
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- b.19 f.6-7 *Woman of Valor*, 1976
- b.19 f.8 *A Woman Without a Name*, undated
- b.20 f.1 *Women Alone*, undated
- b.20 f.2 *Yegor Bulichov*, 1969
- b.20 f.3-7 Unidentified, undated